

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION OF THE
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

A meeting of the Council (“**Council**”) of the International Law Section (“**Section**”) of the State Bar of Michigan (“**State Bar**” or “**SBM**”) was held on March 21, 2012 at Miller Canfield, 150 W. Jefferson Ave., Suite 2500, Detroit, MI 48226.

The following officers of the Council were present in person: Margaret A. Dobrowitsky, Chairperson; Jeffrey F. Paulsen, Chairperson-Elect, and David B. Guenther, Treasurer. The following voting members of the Council were present in person: Debra Clephane, Linda Armstrong, Silvia Kleer, Aaron Ogletree, and Daphne Short. Other Members of the Section also attended the meeting. Names of each of the attendees will be filed with these meeting minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Margaret A. Dobrowitsky, Chairperson of the Section, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:40 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chairperson circulated an agenda for the meeting, which was approved as presented.

NOTICE AND QUORUM

David B. Guenther, Treasurer of the Section and acting secretary in the absence of A. Reed Newland, presented a written notice of the meeting that was mailed or delivered to all members of the Council and to Members of the Section in accordance with the Section’s Bylaws. The acting secretary said that the notice will be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Chairperson reported that A. Reed Newland, Secretary of the Section, was unable to attend the meeting and that the minutes of the Council meeting held on January 25, 2012 would be presented for approval at the Council’s May 16, 2012 meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer, David B. Guenther, presented the unaudited financial statement of the Section for the five months ended February 29, 2012 and the related detailed trial balance for the same period, prepared by the Finance & Administration Division of the State Bar. As of the five months ending February 29, 2012, the revenues of the Section were \$12,575.00, and expenses for the same time period were \$3,182.22, resulting in Net Income of 9,392.78. The Section’s ending fund balance as of February 29, 2012 was \$27,444.37. Upon motion made and supported, Council approved of the financial statements. The Chairperson noted that the Section’s financial statements are generally reprinted in the *Michigan International Lawyer*.

The Treasurer provided a preliminary comparison of Section revenues and expenses to other

sections of the State Bar of Michigan. The Treasurer reported that he had identified eight sections of roughly comparable size to the Section and compared their revenues, expenses, ending fund balance and balance per member for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. Revenues and expenses were highly variable, but on a per member basis, the section with the lowest fund balance per member was Social Security at \$17; the highest, Environmental at nearly \$90; while the Section fell roughly in the middle at \$40 per member. The Treasurer said he would endeavor to report back with a more detailed comparison at the May 16, 2012 meeting.

The Chairperson noted that there was no objection to providing Section financial reports to other sections if requested.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson noted the Report of the Special Committee on Defining the Practice of Law to the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners and asked for discussion as to whether the Section should formally submit a response to the Report. Council and Section members expressed concerns as to whether the definition of practicing law proposed by the Report would apply to foreign lawyers in Michigan, or whether an exception applied. The Chairperson noted that comments on the Report, if any, were due by April 13. The Chairperson said that she would seek volunteers to provide comments, with the support of Council officers, and collect any comments by email.

The Chairperson next addressed the Memorandum dated February 16, 2012 regarding the Student Mentorship Program Proposal submitted by the Student Members of the Section under the guidance of Professor Troy Harris. Jillian Berndt and Weldianne Climo reported on the proposal and its goals. After discussion, the Chairperson suggested creation of a sign-up list of email addresses of Section members willing to have lunch with Student Members and/or Members in their first or second year of practice. The Chairperson requested that the Student Members revise the Memorandum to contemplate an email sign-up list and restrict the program to Student Members and first or second year attorney Members, after which the revised Memorandum will be circulated to Section members for consideration at the May 16, 2012 Section meeting.

The Chairperson reported that the Section had paid its annual membership dues for the International Bar Association (IBA) but was not planning on sending any Section representatives to the IBA annual meeting.

The Chairperson reported that the annual State Bar Leadership Forum would be held June 8-9, 2012 at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island and recommended sending the Chairperson-Elect and the Secretary. Cost of attendance would be approximately \$2,500 - \$3,000. Section members expressed support for such attendance, noting that the forum had historically been an excellent way to meet other State Bar and section leaders and learn about resources available to State Bar sections. Upon motion made and supported, the Council unanimously approved sending the Chairperson-Elect and the Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairperson invited the Section's Committee chairs to report on their activities. Aaron Ogletree, co-chair of the International Trade Committee (ITC), reported on planning for a May 21, 2012 or possibly September 2012 event. Lara Phillip stated that the ITC was still seeking co-sponsorships and a suitable space for the event. The Chairperson noted that the budget for the event would need to be approved by the Council.

SBM-ILS LINKEDIN GROUP

Jeffrey Paulsen updated the Section on the establishment and growth of the Section's LinkedIn Group as a means of increasing and improving communication among Section members. Mr. Paulsen said that 127 members have joined since it was organized and encouraged Section members to join. The group was seeking an additional Section member to serve as manager. Interested persons should contact Mr. Paulsen. The Chairperson thanked both Mr. Paulsen and Ms. Salah for their continuing efforts to promote the site.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council discussed possible topics and locations for the May 16, 2012 meeting. The Chairperson reported that Daphne Short had graciously offered the Delphi facility as a possible location. It was anticipated that a Chinese attorney from Delphi would speak on practice at Delphi and that Tim Kaufmann would present a paper on joint ventures in China. The Chairperson-Elect noted that the focus of the program would be on China.

The Chairperson invited discussion of the list of potential topics for the 2012 annual meeting of the Section and possible locations for the meeting. The Chairperson reminded members that the Council had determined at its November meeting not to hold the Section's annual meeting in conjunction with the State Bar annual meeting, since the latter would be held in Grand Rapids, which was somewhat removed from the majority of the Section's members. The Chairperson suggested intellectual property enforcement and seizure of counterfeit goods as a possible topic. She also proposed the Detroit Yacht Club as a possible venue. The Chairperson-Elect volunteered to request feedback from members and report back to the Council at the May meeting on the list of proposed topics and proposed venue. The Chairperson-Elect stated that the anticipated budget for the annual meeting was approximately \$3,000, which was less than 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

DINNER AND PROGRAM

The section provided dinner, followed by a panel discussion among Steven Tobocman, Director of Global Detroit; David Victor, Director of International Business Programs, College of Business at Eastern Michigan University; and Gregory Conyers, Director of Diversity at the State Bar of Michigan, on *Diversity and a Global Workforce: Implications for Michigan Lawyers*.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Guenther, acting secretary on
behalf of A. Reed Newland
International Law Section
State Bar of Michigan